

Application No. 10/789,156
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus,
comprising:

a first identification unit to identify an area of an input
image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a
5 screened halftone area, based on image data obtained from the
area of the input image and an identification reference value;

an output unit to output one of a character area
identification signal, a photographic area information signal,
and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of
10 the first identification unit for each identified area; and

a recording unit to form an image for each identified area
to be a respective single color based on the signal output by the
output unit for each said identified area; and

an operation setting unit to set the identification
15 reference value.

23. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus,
comprising:

an identification unit to identify an area of an input image
as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character

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5 area, based on image data obtained from the area of the input
 image and an identification reference value;

 an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area
 identification signal and an achromatic character area
 identification signal based on an output of the identification
10 unit for each identified area; and

 a recording unit to form an image for each identified area
 with a respective single color which corresponds to the signal
 output by the output unit for each said identified area; and

an operation setting unit to set the identification
15 reference value.

24. (Previously Presented) The color image forming
apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a second
identification unit to identify the character area as one of a
chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.

25. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus
according to claim 22, further comprising a specification unit to
specify the respective single color for each said identified area.

26. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus
according to claim 23, further comprising a specification unit to
specify the respective single color for each said identified area.

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27. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a gradation processing unit to gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

28. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising a gradation processing unit to gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

Claims 29 and 30 (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the first identification unit has a first identification reference value and the second identification unit has a second identification reference value,
5 and wherein the color image forming apparatus further comprises an operation setting unit to set the first and second identification reference values.

32. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

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33. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

34. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the first identification unit is accurate.

35. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the identification unit is accurate.

36. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

37. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

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38. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

39. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

40. (Currently Amended) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a screened halftone area, based on image data obtained from the area of the input image and an identification reference value, said identification reference value being settable via an operation setting unit;

outputting one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based the identification of each identified area; and

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recording an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

41. (Currently Amended) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area, based on image data obtained from the area of the input image and an identification reference value, said identification reference value being settable via an operation setting unit;

outputting one of a chromatic character area identification signal, and an achromatic character area information signal; and

recording an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

42. (Previously Presented) The color image forming method according to claim 40, further comprising identifying the character area as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.

43. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

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a first identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a
5 screened halftone area, based on image data obtained from the area of the input image and an identification reference value;

an output unit to output one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of
10 the first identification unit for each identified area;

a recording unit to form an image based on the input image;
and

a controller to control the recording unit to form an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on
15 the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area, when an area identification mode is selected; and

an operation setting unit to set the identification reference value.

44. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

an identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character
5 area, based on image data obtained from the area of the input image and an identification reference value;

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an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area
identification signal and an achromatic character area
identification signal based on an output of the identification
10 unit for each identified area;
a recording unit to form an image based on the input image;
and
a controller to control the recording unit to form an image
for each identified area to be a respective single color based on
15 the signal output by the output unit for each said identified
area, when an area identification mode is selected; and
an operation setting unit to set the identification
reference value.